

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the title in order to be more descriptive, as requested by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully traverses the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1 and 2 over Takahashi '024, and the § 103(a) rejection of claim 20 over Takahashi. Nevertheless, applicant has cancelled these claims, rendering the rejection thereof moot.

Applicant acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-19. Applicant has amended claims 3-6 to be independent claims, including the features of the base claims and any intervening claims, thereby placing claims 3-19 in condition for allowance. Applicant has made various minor amendments to the remaining claims solely for the purpose of improving the readability thereof.

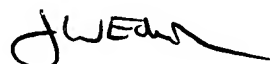
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the claims 3-19.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 10, 2004

By: 
James W. Edmondson
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